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January 8, 2008

Ms. Phyllis Johnson-Ball
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

I understand that Canadian National Railway Company plans to buy the Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway Company. I have been informed that, as a result of this transaction, at least 15 new freight trains will travel through the Barrington, Illinois area each day. According to some, the increase will be much larger than that, and the final number is completely unpredictable. Such an increase will require a great deal of examination to assure that traffic and safety concerns are met.

I am an attorney in Barrington and have had an office in the village for over fifteen years. My firm is dedicated to serving the residents in this village and the surrounding area. My business requires me to travel frequently to court, meetings, depositions, and closings and I frequently encounter delays due to the congestion and traffic caused by the current number of trains passing through the area. My clients have similarly complained of the traffic and congestion when traveling through downtown Barrington.

From my experience as an attorney and board member of the Barrington Chamber of Commerce, I understand that the federal government must consider all significant environmental impacts of its decisions, and issue a statement with alternatives and conditions before proceeding. I am certain that an extra 15 trains, each taking somewhere around five minutes to pass through the area, constitutes a significant impact on this region. I assume, therefore, that you will issue such a statement, which will give myself and others an opportunity to review the true environmental impacts of this transaction. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board in this process.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Lucas

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JML/

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